AP English Literature and Composition
Heart of Darkness vocabulary acquisition

During your reading, identify **fifteen** words per chapter that are unfamiliar to you and that you would like to incorporate into you own vocabulary.

1. Write the sentence from the book with the word in it and indicate page number in a parenthetical citation.
2. Identify the part of speech of the word and at least one alternate form of the word. (If the word is an adjective, find the adverb form.)
3. Record the <u>definition(s)</u> of the word. If multiple definitions exist, choose the definition(s) that fits the context of the book's sentence.
4. Locate at least one <u>synonym</u> for the word.
5. Create a grammatically correct sentence of your own using the new word in proper context.

- abject
- alacrity
- allude
- apparition
- ascetic
- askew
- aspiration
- atrocious
- audacity
- august
- beguile
- benevolence
- brusque
- circumvent
- conflagration
- confound
- declivity
- desolation
- diaphanous
- discourse
- disparagingly
- edifying
- emissary
- enigma
- evanescent
- exultation
- farcical

- fecund
- guileless
- harlequin
- immutability
- impalpable
- impudence
- indefatigable
- inexorable
- innate
- inscrutable
- insidious
- insipid
- interminable
- intrepidity
- joviality
- languidly
- lugubrious
- luminous
- malevolently
- moribund
- morose
- noxious
- obsequiously
- ostentation
- pacifically
- perceptible
- perdition

- pestilence
- philanthropic
- placidity
- precarious
- prevaricator
- primeval
- propensity
- prudently
- pulsating
- rapacious
- repose
- reproachful
- sedentary
- sententiously
- sepulcher
- servile
- somber
- superciliousness
- taint
- tepid
- traverse
- trenchant
- tumult
- venerable
- vivaciously
- voracious

AP English Literature and Composition
Heart of Darkness analysis questions

Directions: For each topic, compose a paragraph that begins with a focused topic sentence. Make sure to include accurate citations for all supporting quotations. For questions that require multiple quotations, you may create a bulleted list; however, your analysis must be in the form of a paragraph.

1. *Heart of Darkness* is a frame story. An unnamed narrator begins the story on the deck of the *Nellie* in London on the Thames River and listens to Marlow recount his journey. Explain the significance and impact of the frame narrative to the story. Identify three shifts within the novella between this narrator and Marlow who narrates most of the story. Why are these particular points of change significant?

2. *Chiaroscuro* is the contrasting of light and shade. From Italian, meaning "bright dark," it is a term referring to the effect obtained in a painting or literary work when light and dark images or patterns of imagery are contrasted or emphasized. Conrad repeatedly utilizes *chiaroscuro* and often uses reverses of the traditional symbolism of black and white in *Heart of Darkness*. Analyze the effect of this technique on meaning and purpose. Provide evidence through two examples where he uses traditional symbolism and four examples where symbolic value is inverted.

3. Conrad often employs impressionism to depict how scenes appear—or what they seem to be. Discuss the impact of literary impressionism on Conrad's message. Illustrate your ideas with four examples where he refers to a person, place, or object using this conflict—the conflict of illusion versus reality. (*seems, appears, looks like*)

4. What does Conrad suggest about the concept of work in *Heart of Darkness* and its relationship to civilization? Find four references to work in the novella; these will be explicit references to work or labor, usually observations by Marlow. What conclusions can you draw from these references? In your analysis, consider that most of the novel's characters are given only descriptive titles of their jobs—not actual names (doctor, brickmaker, accountant, manager, or helmsman, for example).

5. Invent titles for each of the three chapters, and provide a brief defense for each of your titles. Make sure that you explain how these titles relate to the novella title and provide specific textual support.